

USSN: 09/882,825

Attorney Docket No: 0247.00006

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 14, and 16-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 3, and 9 are in independent form. Claims 4-8, 10-13, and 15 have been canceled without prejudice.

The remaining dependent claims not specifically discussed herein are ultimately dependent upon at least one of the independent claims discussed above. References as applied against these dependent claims do not make up for the deficiencies of those references as discussed above. The prior art references do not disclose the characterizing features of the independent claims discussed above. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are patentable over the prior art.


In view of the present amendment and foregoing remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and advancement of the case to issue are respectfully requested.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 11-1449.

Respectfully submitted,

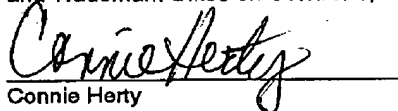
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/FACSIMILE  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile (703) 305-7687 to the Patent and Trademark Office on October 1, 2003.

  
Connie Herty

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